

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center



Plant Materials for Conservation

Developing the technology to produce native plants and installing field plantings are the primary jobs of plant materials centers. The plants in the west are varied and abundant, and they perform vital roles in our environment. Land owners, managers, and operators use grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees to help solve conservation and resource problems and improve our environment. Many soil and water conservation problems can be solved with plants.

The Los Lunas Plant Materials Center (PMC) is part of a nationally coordinated plant materials program operated by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.



At the Los Lunas PMC, plant scientists evaluate hundreds of plants for their capacity to solve problems that plague our modern world. Their goal is to collect promising native plants and test their performance under a variety of soil and climatic conditions. This involves assembling collections from native stands, evaluating and selecting the material for defined characteristics, developing seed preparation technology, and developing cultural practices for production of the plant materials.

Plant materials centers work closely with private, state, and federal agencies.

Areas served by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center:

- New Mexico
- Northeast Arizona
- Southeast Colorado
- Southwest Texas
- Southeast Utah

Los Lunas Plant Materials Center

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Plant Material Developed at the Los Lunas PMC

Grasses

'Jose' & 'Largo'*	Tall wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>
'Amur'*	Intermediate wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum intermedium</i>
'Arriba'	Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>
'Luna'*	Pubescent wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>
'Elida'	Sand bluestem	<i>Andropogon halli</i>
'Vaughn' & 'Niner'	Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
'Nogal'	Black grama	<i>Bouteloua eriopoda</i>
'Lovington', 'Hachita' & 'Alma'	Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
'Sandia'*	Orchard grass	<i>Dactylus glomerata</i>
'Redondo'	Arizona fescue	<i>Festuca arizonica</i>
'Viva'	Galleta	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>
'El Vado'	Spike muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia wrightii</i>
'Paloma'	Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>
'Grenville'	Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
'Pastura'	Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
'Llano'	Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
'Salado'	Alkali sacaton	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>
Grant Germplasm	Cane bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa barbinodis</i>
Tusas Germplasm	Bottlebrush squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>
Westwater Germplasm	Alkali muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia asperifolia</i>

Forbs

'Bandera'	Rocky Mt. penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>
'Cedar'	Palmer penstemon	<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>
San Juan Germplasm	Narrowleaf penstemon	<i>Penstemon angustifolius</i>

Trees and Shrubs

'Montane'	Mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>
'Barranco', 'Hope' & 'Regal'	Desert willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>
'Pink Lady'*	Winterberry euonymus	<i>Euonymus bunganus</i>
'Jemez'	Stretchberry	<i>Forestiera pubescens</i>
'Bonita'	Soaptree yucca	<i>Yucca elata</i>
'Bighorn' & Autumn Amber	Skunkbush sumac	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
'Hatch'	Winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>

* Introduced

Species In Seed Increase for Future Release

Vine mesquite	<i>Panicum obtusum</i>
Giant sacaton	<i>Sporobolus wrightii</i>

Species Being Evaluated

Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Mesa dropseed	<i>Sporobolus flexuosus</i>
Needleandthread	<i>Stipa comata</i>
Tobosa	<i>Pleuraphis mutica</i>